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## MAJOR RESULTS OF 1978 EXCAVATIONS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN POLAND

In 1978 about 70 early medieval sites and over 50 sites dating from the High Middle Ages and from modern times were investigated. In comparison with previous seasons, the number of the former has declined, and that of the latter has steadily grown. The early medieval sites comprised over 50 settlements (including 30 fortified sites or early towns), 15 cemeteries and 1 assumed cult site.

Apart from Polanowice (cf. below) no large-scale excavations were carried out of sites dating from the earliest phase of the early medieval Slav culture of the 6th-7th cent. Exploration was continued of a flat cemetery of the Old Prussian culture, 6th-7th cent., at **Nowinka** (5), Elbląg province, site 1 (M. Pietrzak, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Gdańsk). The site has yielded further cremation burials in pits (nos. 87-105), 7 of which, in addition to human burials, contained skeletons of horses situated at lower levels; scanty grave goods were limited to iron bits and fragment of a saddle in the horse burials and to a one-edged sword and strap-ends in one of the human burials.

The next phase, 8th to mid-10th cent., is represented by several earthworks which were frequently explored together with contemporary or earlier settlements. At **Kretomino** (4), Koszalin province, site 1 (I. Skrzypek, Muzeum Okręgowe, Koszalin) the excavations in the S part of the earthwork revealed the construction of the rampart which in the light of the pottery from its upper layers should be dated to the 8th-second half of the 10th cent.; the core of the rampart consisted of 12 layers of crossed logs, surrounded on the outside by a breastwork of clay and sand, built on two layers of crossed logs. Exploration was continued of the earthwork from the mid-9th to 10th/11th cent., built on the site of an open settlement of the 7th/8th to 8th cent. at **Mietlica** (11), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (A. Dymaczewski, S. Jerningen, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań and University in Louisville, Kentucky): the excavations revealed 7 semi-subterranean huts with remains of roofing, and a rampart of crossed logs build. The contemporary settlement at **Złotowo** (11), site 5, neighbouring with the earthwork, yielded 1 hut and 18 pits (one of which dates from an earlier phase than the earthwork). The settlement complex (stronghold, *suburbium*, open settlement?) of similar date at **Kołuda Wielka** (9), Bydgoszcz province, site 1 (A. Cofta-Broniewska and team, Uniwersytet, Poznań) revealed several dozens of hearths, pits and huts, a set of industrial features on the periphery of the site, timber construction of a bridgehead and of the revetment of the waterside as well as an additional rampart with a moat to the N of the earthwork.

Among the sites explored, the fortified ones which were founded before the 10th cent. and continued to be used in the next phase, form a relatively large group. The stronghold at **Myślibórz** (2), Gorzów province (B. Bojanowski, Myślibórskie Towarzystwo Społeczno-Kulturalne, Myślibórz) which functioned from the close of the 9th



Map showing important archaeological sites of the Early Medieval Age, investigated in 1978. Numbers of the points on the map correspond to the numbers after the place-names in text

to early 12th cent., yielded a stone facing of the lower part of the inner side of the rampart, beneath which a dog skull came to light (foundation offering?); the remaining discoveries included a hearth, a pit with walls lined with sticks, and a semi-subterranean hut with visible remains of a gable roof which had caved in; the later phase is documented by numerous finds such as a neckring of bronze wire, silver temple-rings, buckles, a bone comb, 2 sickles. Two phases of construction were recorded at the stronghold at **Moraczewo** (7), Poznań province, site 1 (C. Strzyżewski, Z. Sułczyński, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań). The older stronghold, which was smaller in size, was built in the 8th-8th/9th cent. (stone forewall at the foot of the rampart, a post-building, 12×8.5 m, in the central part of the enclosure); the younger stronghold of the 10th to 10th/11th cent., extended in the eastern part, was destroyed by fire (burnt constructions of the rampart and of an overground building, 14.1×10.5 m in the western part). At **Czerchów** (15), Łódź province, site 1 (A. Chmielowska, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) the defensive constructions of the stronghold dating from the 9th to 11th cent. were revealed: the rampart, 12 m wide at the base, and with a timber forewall on the inner slope of the moat, was built of crossed logs on the inside, and probably of boxes and crossed logs on the

outside, whereas its upper part may have consisted of wooden boxes filled with stones; post-holes (traces of buildings?) came to light within the enclosure, at the foot of the rampart; the finds included numerous potsherds, animal bones, iron objects (a bit, fragment of a small bowl). In the province of Przemysł two upland strongholds continued to be excavated, namely **Tuligłowy** (24) (M. Cabalska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) where the later settlement phase (10th-11th cent.) was documented by a further 3 huts (total 16), 5×5 m in size, with the entrance in the S wall, and hearths in the opposite corner, and the earlier phase (8th-9th ? cent.), by traces of a second building; and **Wybrzeże** (23) (M. Parczewski, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków) where a semi-subterranean hut, 4.9×4.4 m in size, with a passage on the S side and remains of a stone oven in the NE corner (9th ?) 10th-12th cent., was uncovered. A stronghold and a castle of the 11th-14th cent. were again explored at **Sieradz** (16), Castle Hill site (U. Perlikowska-Puszkarska, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa). The investigations comprised the S and SE part of the hill (4 burnt down block houses, 12th cent.), and the outer slopes of the ramparts, the older dating from the 2nd half of the 12th to 13th cent., and the younger from the 2nd half of the 13th to early 14th cent.

Only a small group of open settlements from the early phases of the Early Medieval period were examined in 1978. Two of these should be mentioned: **Barkowice** (17), Piotrków Trybunalski province, site 1 (M. Góra, Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne, Łódź) — continued excavations of a settlement of the 6th (?)–9th cent., situated on a promontory cut off by a ditch; across the ditch ran a pass, 2 m wide, by which the shut off part of the promontory could have been reached; and **Polanowice** (10), Bydgoszcz province, site 3 (B. Dzieduszycka, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań): 3 features of the 7th and 9th cent. At **Gniezno** (8), Poznań province, site 5 (P. Świątkiewicz, P. Kieszkowski, Muzeum, Gniezno) two superimposed settlements were explored: assumed *suburbium* II, 9th-11th cent. (remains of a construction of closely lying boards) and an open settlement, 11th-13th cent. (fragments of 2 timber-paved streets, 3 houses and associated buildings, a clay-stone hearth, a domed oven of stone; among small finds was a pair of compasses [?] of bone). The later phases of the Early Medieval period are represented by two settlements: **Warszawa-Wilanów** (18), site 13 (H. Miynarczyk, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Warszawa) where the extent of a settlement of the 11th/12th-13th cent., built on a near-oval plan, has been defined and a further 15 features (dwelling and domestic pits) came to light; and **Wylazłów** (14), Sieradz province, site 4 (R. Rogosz, E. Cnotliwy, Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków, Szczecin): semi-subterranean huts, 2.5×3.5 m, open hearths, 11th-12th cent.

Of the investigations of pre- and early Romanesque architecture of major importance are those conducted in **Kraków** (21) on Wawel Hill (M. Szewczyk, W. Szmukier, Kierownictwo Odnowienia Zamku Królewskiego, Kraków-Wawel). The exploration of the SW part of the hill, started in 1977, has led to the discovery of a rotunda (inside diameter abt. 8 m) with an apsis on the E side, erected in the 11th cent., destroyed at the latest in early 14th cent.; overground walls (1.1-1.3 m wide) built in the *opus emplectum* technique, faced with sandstone ashlars; in the W side foundations of 2 wall pillars (a gallery?) and of a ground wall along the chord of the nave (the wall had destroyed a tomb); in the E part, in the rod-screen, the *stipes* of an altar of sandstone slabs; in the destruction layer a shaft of a small column with a capital (or base). The investigations of the Benedictine monastery at **Lubiń** (12), Leszno province (Z. Kurnatowska, H. Mamzer, Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN, Poznań) revealed relics of buildings from various phases of its existence *int al.* a cube-faced wall of the southern apsis (?) of a Romanesque church and late Romanesque features which included fragment of a monastic building and extremely solid foundations presumed of a defensive wall.

Cremation cemeteries are represented by a barrow of the 11th cent., with a dispersed cremation burial and a secondary inhumation, explored at **Drohiczyn** (19), Białystok province (K. Chilton, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Białystok) and by an assumed (empty?) barrow of the 10th-11th cent. (?) at **Buczek** (3), Koszalin province, site 13 (H. Machajewski, A. Sikorski, Uniwersytet, Poznań). Of the inhumation cemeteries, the following merit attention: **Cedynia** (1), Szczecin province (H. Malinowska-Łazarczyk, A. Porzeziński, Konserwator Zabytków Archeologicznych, Szczecin) where site 2 yielded a further 54 graves of the 10th-14th cent. (among the grave-goods was a „falsified” [silvered copper] denarius of Bogusław I of the 12th cent.) and site 2a (another, new discovered cemetery) produced 16 inhumations of the 11th-12th cent., furnished *int. al.* with wooden buckets, an iron spur, an Easter egg of clay, a finger-ring and a necklace of bronze; **Ostrów Lednicki** (6), Poznań province (J. Łomnicki and team, Muzeum Pierwszych Piastów, Lednica) — the investigations conducted on the edge of the complex of pre-Romanesque stone buildings comprised timber constructions of the ramparts of the 9th/10th and 10th/11th cent., habitation layers of the 10th/11th to 13th cent., and a superimposed churchyard which yielded 32 burials in coffins and stone-settings; the burials, which intersected the habitation layers, occurred at three levels, and were poorly furnished; **Smolugi** (20), Białystok province (L. Rauhut, Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, Warszawa) — continued exploration of a cemetery of the 12th-13th cent., has shown that the coffins, placed on the primary surface of the ground, were surrounded by stones and covered with 3 to 5 layers of stone pavement; rich grave goods included battle-axes, spearheads, „strike-a-lights”, finger-rings, glass beads; **Janowice** (22), Kielce province (J. and A. Krauss, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Kraków) — discovery of a cemetery not associated with a church, which yielded 9 burials with heads to the W and E, one with a vessel of the 11th cent.; **Przemysł** (25), Rycerska street (S. Koperski, Muzeum Okręgowe, Przemysł) — a further 4 graves uncovered in an Old Magyar cemetery of the 10th cent., 2 adults without any grave-goods, and 2 containing only children's teeth and clay vessels. Reconnaissance investigations of a group of enigmatic barrows with stone capping were concluded at **Pudliszki** (13), Leszno province, site 6 (A. Prinke, Muzeum Archeologiczne, Poznań); 2 barrows explored there in 1977 contained over 10 complete or incomplete skeletons each, oriented to the W and E, and equipped with wooden buckets and knives (11th? cent.); 2 barrows examined in 1978 contained neither burials nor grave goods.